CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A computerized method of managing workload within a Workflow-Management-System (WFMS), said method being executable by

5 said WFMS on at least one computer system, wherein said WFMS comprises a process model, said process model comprising one or more activities being the nodes of an arbitrary graph, and directed edges of said graph defining a potential control flow within said process model, said method comprising the steps of:

10 analyzing said process model to determine if a priority execution indicator is assigned to one of said one or more activities within said process model; and

when said analyzing step indicates that there is a priority execution indicator, said WFMS launching execution of said

15 activity with an execution priority specified according to said priority execution indicator.

2. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 1, further comprising, when said analyzing step indicates that there is a priority execution indicator, said WFMS setting its own

execution priority for WFMS internal processing to the execution priority specified according to said priority execution indicator.

3. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 2, further comprising, when said analyzing step indicates that there is a priority execution indicator, setting the priority of one or more messages relating to the processing of said activity are set to the execution priority specified according to said priority execution indicator.

4. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 1, wherein said process model is further analyzed to determine if there is a priority execution specification associated with said activity.

5. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 4, further comprising, when said analyzing step indicates that there is a priority execution specification for said activity, assigning the priority execution indicator of said priority execution specification of said activity to said activity.

6. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 4, further comprising, when there is no priority execution specification of said activity, analyzing for a priority execution specification of a performance sphere comprising said activity,

said performance sphere comprising a sub-graph of said process model associating a process execution indicator to activities within said performance sphere.

7. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim
5 6, further comprising, when a priority execution specification of said performance sphere is located, assigning the priority execution indicator of said priority execution specification of said performance sphere to said activity.

8. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim
10 6, further comprising, when a priority execution specification is not located for said performance sphere, analyzing said process model for a priority execution specification associated with said process model and assigning the priority execution indicator of said priority execution specification of said process model to
15 said activity.

9. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 1, wherein said launching further comprises mapping said priority execution indicator to a value based on said activity's specific execution environment.

20 10. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 2, wherein said launching further comprises mapping said priority

execution indicator to a value in accordance to said WFMS's

specific execution-environment.

11. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim

3, wherein said launching further comprises mapping said priority

5 execution indicator to a value in accordance to said

communication-system.

12. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim

3, said launching further comprises said WFMS launching execution

of said activity directly by calling said activity with said

10 execution priority.

13. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim

3, wherein said launching further comprises said WFMS launching

execution of said activity indirectly by sending said activity a

message set to said execution priority and said activity being

15 responsive by setting its execution priority accordingly.

14. A data processing program for execution in a data processing

system comprising software code portions for performing a method

for managing workload within a Workflow-Management-System (WFMS)

said method being executable by said WFMS on at least one computer

20 system, wherein said WFMS comprises a process model, said process

model comprising one or more activities being the nodes of an

arbitrary graph, and directed edges of said graph defining a

potential control flow within said process model, said method comprising the steps of:

analyzing said process model to determine if a priority execution indicator is assigned to one of said one or more
5 activities within said process model; and

when said analyzing step indicates that there is a priority execution indicator, said WFMS launching execution of said activity with an execution priority specified according to said priority execution indicator.

10 15. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine for performing method steps for managing workload within a Workflow-Management-System (WFMS) said method being executable by said WFMS on at least one computer system, wherein said WFMS
15 comprises a process model, said process model comprising one or more activities being the nodes of an arbitrary graph, and directed edges of said graph defining a potential control flow within said process model, said method comprising the steps of:

analyzing said process model to determine if a priority
20 execution indicator is assigned to one of said one or more activities within said process model; and

when said analyzing step indicates that there is a priority execution indicator, said WFMS launching execution of said activity with an execution priority specified according to said priority execution indicator.

5 16. A system for managing workload in a computer system comprising:

a Workflow-Management-System (WFMS) on at least one computer in said system, said WFMS comprises a process model, said process model comprising one or more activities being the nodes of an
10 arbitrary graph, and directed edges of said graph defining a potential control flow within said process model;

at least one processor component for analyzing said process model to determine if a priority execution indicator is assigned to one of said one or more activities within said process model;
15 and

an activity launching component for causing said WFMS to launch execution of said activity, when said analyzing step indicates that there is a priority execution indicator, said WFMS launching execution of said activity with an execution priority specified
20 according to said priority execution indicator.